



93
B1 IFW

MS Issue Fee
PATENT
0054-0243P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yoshihisa YAMADA et al. Conf.: 7117
Appl. No.: 09/982,008 Group: 2621
Filed: October 19, 2001 Examiner: D. ROSARIO
For: APPARATUS FOR RE-CODING AN IMAGE SIGNAL

MS Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 9, 2006

Sir:

The comments attached herewith do not cause substantial interference and delay in the patent issue process and therefore cannot be considered a "failure to engage in reasonable efforts" to conclude processing or examination of the application. Accordingly, the submission of said comments must not result in a reduction of the patent term adjustment of 633 days pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(c)(10). See O.G. 26 June 2001, lines 38-53.

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT FOR REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicant is appreciative of the Notice of Allowance papers dated March 14, 2005. Applicant offers the following comments regarding these documents.

In the Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner indicated that the prior art fails to teach a feature recited in claim 1, and subsequently paraphrased, to a substantial

extent, features recited in claims 1 and 10 and alleged advantages associated with the invention.

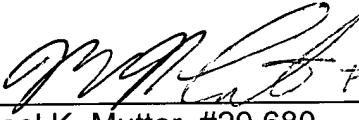
Applicant respectfully notes that the invention is defined by all of the allowed claims, which stand upon their own recitations, and limitations should not be imputed to any of the claims based upon the statement of Reasons for Allowance. Moreover, Applicant respectfully reserves his right to argue alternative interpretations and additional patentable distinctions of the claimed invention over any alleged prior art, should that need ever arise, and do not necessarily agree with any characteristics of the invention and/or alleged advantages thereof.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Michael K. Mutter (Reg. No. 29,680) at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #39,491
Michael K. Mutter, #29,680

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

MKM/JAV:tm
0054-0243P